THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) There has been a general demand for treating agriculture at pat with industry which would imply extending benefits to agriculture sector as exist in industry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Production of Fertilizers

1199. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to U.Q. 4090 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th April' 95 and state;

(a) the quantity of fertilizers to be imported during 1995-96, 1996-97;

(b) the import cost of such fertilizers per metric tonne; and

(c) the selling price of these fertilizers in the market?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Urea, Di-Anmonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP) are three major fertilizers which are presently imported. DAP and MOP are decanalized fertilizers and can be imported freely. Urea is the only canalized item and is also under price and movement control. The gap between its production and consumption in the country is bridged from available stocks and imports.

During April to October, 1995, 18.04 lakh tonnes of urea at a total C&F cost of Rs. 1309.32 crores has been imported. It is not possible to indicate the level of impoorts of urea expected during 1996-97 as it depends upon a variety of factors like trend of indigenous production and consumption of fertilizers in the country, the behaviour of prices in the international market, the global demand and supply position, balance of payments, etc.

From the information available with the Department of Fertilizers, imports of DAP and MOP upto 30th September, 1995 have been 11.94 lakh metric tonnes and 9.41 lakh metric tonnes respectively. The Department does not have figures of value of these imports.

(c) The statutory maximum retails price of urea, which is the only fertiliser under price control, is Rs. 3320.00 per metric tonne. The prices of other fertilizers, namely DAP and MOP are determined by market forces of demand and supply.

Opening Mining Sector to China

1200. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China proposes to open its mining sector in India;

(b) if so, whether any proposal has been received by Government from China in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (c) No formal proposal has been received from the Chinese Government. However, a Chinese delegation from Shougang Corporation visited National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) mines in May/June, 1993 and subsequently in April, 1994, and expressed their interest to have a joint venture with NMDC for mining of iron ore. No further developments have taken place.

Scientific Method of Cultivation

1201. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to introduce scientific method of cultivation in the present set of sub-division and fragmentation of holdings of land?